



Keep your home and garden green and our water clean.

Without even realizing it, you often practice pest control in your home. Many household products contain pesticides, including disinfectants, cleansers, mildew removers, and more. But like any other chemical, pesticides can harm water quality if used improperly.

With integrated pest management (IPM), you work with nature to create an environment where it is difficult for pests to survive. Techniques include cultural practices (such as mulching to prevent weeds), encouraging natural enemies (“good bugs”), and judicious use of pesticides. Your first step should be to identify your pest problem.

Decide how much pest control is necessary. Try IPM controls first. If you use a chemical, choose one that targets the problem and poses the least hazard to people, property and the environment.

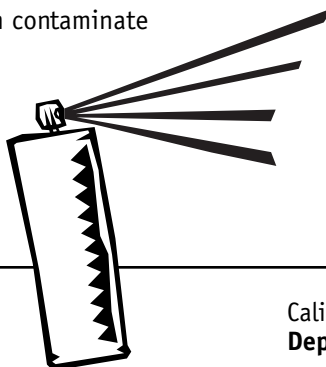
Buying Pesticides

- Correctly identify the problem pest and seek the least-toxic, most pest-specific practices or pesticide treatment.
- Read the pesticide label to help get maximum benefits with minimum risk.
- Plan ahead. Buy just enough pesticide to do the job or to last the season.
- Consider ready-to-use products rather than concentrated solutions.



Using Pesticides

- Before using a pesticide, **read the entire label and carefully follow its directions.**
- Always dilute and mix pesticides outside.
- Keep children and pets clear from areas treated with a spray until the spray dries.
- Don't spray on windy days and don't use pesticides when rain is forecast — runoff from lawns and gardens can contaminate waterways.



Disposing of Pesticides

- **Never** dispose of any pesticide by flushing it down the drain or toilet.
- **Use it!** The best way to dispose of excess pesticide is to use it according to directions on the product label.
- Follow label directions to dispose of unused pesticides (unless local laws are stricter).
- Do not recycle pesticide containers.



For more information, please contact:

California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Pesticide Regulation
www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/h2o